

Serial No.: 10/087,095

RECEIVED
CENTRAL FAX CENTER

NOV 01 2006

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (currently amended) A load balancer comprising:

means extracting identifying information specific to a mobile IP terminal from an arrival packet; and

means determining a single destination server, from among a plurality of servers, to be connected based on the identifying information, the destination server corresponding to a destination of the packet.

wherein the destination server is associated with the mobile IP terminal according to a load balancing algorithm.

2. (previously presented) The load balancer as claimed in claim 1, wherein the identifying information comprises a home address included in a destination option header of the packet.

3. (previously presented) The load balancer as claimed in claim 1, wherein the identifying information is prescribed in predetermined lower bits of a source address of a packet utilizing a stateless address configuration method.

4. (previously presented) The load balancer as claimed in claim 1, wherein the identifying information comprises a security parameter index of the packet if encrypted.

5. (currently amended) A load balancer comprising:

means requesting a home agent to notify a change of a care-of address when the care-of address of a terminal has changed upon an arrival of a first packet addressed to a server; and

Serial No.: 10/087,095

means determining a single destination server, from among a plurality of servers, to be connected by regarding the notified care-of address as identifying information, the destination server corresponding to a destination of the packet,

wherein the destination server is associated with the mobile IP terminal according to a load balancing algorithm.

6. (currently amended) A load balancer comprising:

means requesting a terminal to notify a change of a care-of address when the care-of address of the terminal has changed upon an arrival of a first packet addressed to a server; and

means determining a single destination server, from among a plurality of servers, to be connected by regarding the notified care-of address as identifying information, the destination server corresponding to a destination of the packet,

wherein the destination server is associated with the mobile IP terminal according to a load balancing algorithm.

7. (previously presented) The load balancer as claimed in claim 2, wherein when the extracting means extract a packet transmitted from a home link upon an arrival of the packet and the packet does not have the destination option header, the determining means determine the destination server by regarding a source address of the packet as the identifying information.

8. (previously presented) The load balancer as claimed in claim 1, wherein the determining means are provided with a table for storing an address of the destination server having a source

Serial No.: 10/087,095

address associated with the care-of address as a retrieval key, thereby determining the destination server using the source address of the arrival packet.

9. (previously presented) The load balancer as claimed in claim 5, wherein the determining means are provided with a table for storing an address of the destination server having a source address associated with the care-of address as a retrieval key, thereby determining the destination server using the source address of the arrival packet, and the table prepares an entry with a new care-of address as a retrieval key when the new care-of address has been notified, and stores, as storing data, an address of the destination server stored as data of an entry of an old care-of address.

10. (previously presented) The load balancer as claimed in claim 9, wherein the determining means store a lifetime in the data of the entry, periodically decrement the lifetime, update the lifetime every time a packet using the entry has arrived, and invalidate the entry upon expiration of the lifetime.

11. (previously presented) The load balancer as claimed in claim 1, wherein a home agent of a mobile IP terminal as a substitute for the server is made a destination to be connected.

12. (currently amended) A home agent comprising:

means managing binding cache information; and

Serial No.: 10/087,095

means notifying, according to a request from a load balancer, the binding cache information managed by the home agent itself to the load balancer periodically or when triggered in operation by a change of a care-of address of a mobile IP terminal;

wherein a single server, associated with the mobile IP terminal according to a load balancing algorithm, is determined from among a plurality of servers based on identifying information specific to the mobile IP terminal; and

wherein the server corresponds to a destination of a packet.

13. (currently amended) A mobile IP terminal comprising:

means managing binding cache information; and

means notifying, according to a request from a load balancer, the binding cache information managed by the mobile IP terminal itself to the load balancer periodically or when triggered in operation by a change of a care-of address of the mobile IP terminal itself;

wherein a single server, associated with the mobile IP terminal according to a load balancing algorithm, is determined from among a plurality of servers based on identifying information specific to the mobile IP terminal; and

wherein the server corresponds to a destination of a packet.

14. (previously presented) The load balancer as claimed in claim 7, wherein the determining means are provided with a table for storing an address of the destination server having a source address associated with the care-of address as a retrieval key, thereby determining the destination server using the source address of the arrival packet.

Serial No.: 10/087,095

15. (previously presented) The load balancer as claimed in claim 6, wherein the determining means are provided with a table for storing an address of the destination server having a source address associated with the care-of address as a retrieval key, thereby determining the destination server using the source address of the arrival packet, and the table prepares an entry with a new care-of address as a retrieval key when the new care-of address has been notified, and stores, as storing data, an address of the destination server stored as data of an entry of an old care-of address.

16. (previously presented) The load balancer as claimed in claim 15, wherein the determining means store a lifetime in the data of the entry, periodically decrement the lifetime, update the lifetime every time a packet using the entry has arrived, and invalidate the entry upon expiration of the lifetime.